

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00261 021324Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

BIB-01 /064 W

----- 009002

R 021220Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9539

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0261

USIA FOR SADLIK, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CZ LE US

SUBJECT: PROTEST OF CZECH MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S.

REFS: A. PRAGUE 233 B. PRAGUE 252

1. POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON NOVOTNY, DEPUTY HEAD MFA'S SIXTH DEPARTMENT, MORNING FEBRUARY 2. FOLLOWING LINE SUGGESTED REF B, HE LINKED DISCUSSION TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL'S COMPLAINTS TO CHARGE ON U.S. MEDIA TREATMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. NOTING THAT GENERAL TENOR OF CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S. WAS HARDLY CALCULATED TO HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON EFFORTS TO MOVE OUR RELATIONS FORWARD, POL COUNSELOR SAID HE SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO PROTEST ROVENSKY'S ARTICLE IN JANUARY 29 RUDE PRAVO (REF A) AND RADIO PRAGUE JANUARY 10 BROADCASTING WELCH ASSASSINATION. IN ADDITION TO UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS RE CIA ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON, WE FOUND ROVENSKY'S PERSONAL ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GODLEY EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE. AS CHARGE AND SPACIL HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED VOA AND RFE, HE MENTIONED MINARIK PRESS CONFERENCE AND TV APPEARANCES ONLY BRIEFLY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00261 021324Z

2. IN REPLY, NOVOTNY TOOK LINE THAT CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA IN

GENERAL ONLY PICKED UP WESTERN PRESS REPORTS ON CIA ACTIVITIES, (WHICH HE NOTED WERE PLENTIFUL), BECAUSE THEY OBVIOUSLY HAD NO INDEPENDENT ACCESS TO CIA SECRETS. WHILE HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH RADIO PRAGUE BROADCAST ON WELCH ASSASSINATION, HE STATED THAT IT SOUNDED TO HIM LIKE SPECULATION, AND "SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY." MINARIK, HE SAID, WAS ONLY SETTING FORTH "FACTS"; BEST WAY TO AVOID MINARIK-TYPE PUBLICITY WOULD BE TO ABOLISH RFE.

3. POL COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT INDEED CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA HAD PICKED UP NUMEROUS STORIES ON CIA FROM WESTERN MEDIA, AND THAT WE HAD NEVER PROTESTED PUBLICATION OF THESE STORIES. HOWEVER, GENERAL LINE OF ROVENSKY ARTICLE AND KRAL'S

ALLEGATIONS THAT CIA HAD ENGINEERED WELCH ASSASSINATION HAD NEVER--TO HIS KNOWLEDGE--APPEARED IN WESTERN MEDIA. WHILE AGREEING THAT KRAL'S THESIS WAS ONLY SPECULATION AND THAT SUBSTANCE DID NOT DESERVE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, POL COUNSELOR STATED THAT USG MUST TAKE SERIOUSLY THE BROADCASTING OF AN ALLEGATION THAT IT HAD ENGINEERED THE ASSASSINATION OF ONE OF ITSEMPLOYEES.

4. NOVOTNY PROMISED TO REPORT CONVERSATION TO HIS SUPERIORS, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD ALSO SEE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE AT RUDE PRAVO AND RADIO PRAGUE WERE INFORMED.

5. COMMENT: NOVOTNY SEEMED, IF NOT EMBARRASSED, AT LEAST UNCOMFORTABLE, ESPECIALLY AT PERSONAL ATTACK ON GODLEY AND KRAL THESIS ON WELCH ASSASSINATION. HIS PROMISE TO BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF RUDE PRAVO AND RADIO PRAGUE AUTHORITIES, WHICH IS NOT USUAL IN OUR EXPERIENCE, COULD BE INDICATION THAT AT LEAST SIXTH DEPARTMENT FEELS MEDIA MAY IN THESE INSTANCES HAVE OVERSTRETCHED EVEN THEIR USUALLY ELASTIC BOUNDARIES.

PERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE00261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-1000
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760291/aaaadcfo.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRAGUE 233, 76 PRAGUE 252
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROTEST OF CZECH MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006